

REMARKS:

This application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the Office Action dated April 2, 2007. Reconsideration of that action is requested in view of the following.

Non-elected claims 25-35 have been canceled without prejudice. Non-elected claims 9-10 and 18-20 have been retained in the application since those claims are dependent on elected claims and if the elected parent claims are found allowable, claims 9-10 and 18-20 should also be allowed.

Figures 1 and 3 have been amended to provide a reference numeral (17) for the contact portions. A similar amendment has been made to page 8 of the specification.

The supplemental mounting structure defined in claims 11 and 21 have already been illustrated in Figure 9. Page 13, however, has been amended to provide the antecedent basis for the terminology used in claims 11 and 21.

As a result of the above amendments the objections to the drawings should be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 23 have been amended in view of the rejection under 35 USC 112 and now should be considered definite.

The Office Action contained three general types of "prior art" rejections. One of those rejections was based upon two of the parent applications for this application. Another set of rejections was based upon the Gougeon and upon the Granville

prior art. The third type of rejection was an obviousness type double patenting rejection.

With regard to the rejection over the parent '434 Smith patent and '792 Smith patent, attached is a declaration from applicant Smith, pointing out that with regard to the claims which had been rejected over his two earlier parent patents any invention disclosed, but not claimed in those earlier parent patents was derived from him as the inventor of these claims and thus these claims do not reflect an invention by another.

With regard to the obviousness type double patenting rejection applicants are filing a Terminal Disclaimer which should obviate that rejection.

It is observed that claims 3, 12 and 22 had not been rejected over either the Gougeon or the Granville patents. Accordingly, those claims have been placed in independent form. Since canceled claims 25-35 include three independent claims the placement of claims 3, 12 and 22 in independent form should not require any supplemental filing fee. If any fee is required by this amendment the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-2775.

Parent claims 1 and 14 have been amended to more clearly define the invention.

It is respectfully submitted that parent claims 1 and 14 and their dependent claims are patentable over Gougeon. As now

defined in each of parent claims 1 and 14 the second end of the cover terminates in a U-shaped outer edge so that it is bifurcated to create the pair of spaced outwardly extending flaps with an open area between the flaps whereby the flaps are spaced apart and out of contact with each other. Such structure is clearly lacking in Gougeon. In that regard, as shown in Figure 5, there is no second end which terminates in a U-shaped outer edge. To the extent that there might be flaps such flaps are in contact with each other along the opening 10.

Claim 1 also defines the fastening structure on the inner surface of the flaps and the complementary fastening structure on the outer surface of the first end as being non-detachably disposed on such surfaces. This also clearly differs from Gougeon where the fastening structure is actually a strap 13 separate and distinct from the remaining broom attachment structure. Such strap 13 is shown as a separate element in Figure 4 of Gougeon.

The claims which are dependent on claims 1 and 14 should be allowed by virtue of their dependency and for the features added by those claims. Note is made, for example, of claim 5 which refers to the embodiment where the pad is located within the loop with the cover itself being disposed outwardly of the pad. This is shown, for example, in Figure 7. This is exactly the opposite arrangement than is shown, for example, in Figure 2 of Gougeon

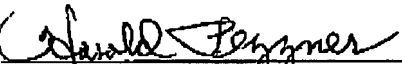
where the sections 17 and 18 are disposed outside of the loop.

Note is also made of claim 7 which defines a pad being located on only one side of the loop. Such embodiment is illustrated, for example, in Figure 6. This differs from Gougeon where the sections 17 and 18 are provided on both sides of the loop.

It is respectfully submitted that parent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 4 6-8 and 13 are patentable over Granville. As discussed above, parent claim 1 defines the second end of the cover as terminating in a U-shaped outer edge which creates flaps which are spaced apart and out of contact with each other. Such structure is clearly lacking in Granville where there is no U-shaped edge nor are there any flaps, much less flaps which are spaced apart and out of contact from each other.

In view of the above remarks and amendments this application should be passed to issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Annotated Sheet

